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Guyana

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Introduction

1. Guyana is pleased to present its report to the 2nd Universal Periodic Review and give an account of the status of the implementation of the recommendations made at the 15th session of the UNHRC, September 23, 2010.

2. Guyana asks the Committee to note Guyana's State Party reports to the CEDAW and the CROC and its review before these Committees in 2012 and 2013 respectively, and, its State Party report to the ICSER, which provide valuable information. Guyana has also submitted its National Review of the Beijing Declaration and the Implementation of the Plan of Action. Information and data from these reports have not been reconsidered in this present report except in areas where there have been relevant changes or for emphasis. In view of this, the Government of Guyana recommends that this report be read together with these State party's reports and reviews, wherever applicable.

3. Guyana voluntarily committed to consult on 28 recommendations of the 55 Recommendations (70.1–70. 55), which were considered controversial, that is: 14 recommendations with regard to the abolition of the death penalty (70.9, 70.23–70.35); 6 with regard to the abolition of corporal punishment (70.36–70.41); 7 with regard to decriminalizing consensual same sex adult sexual relations and discrimination against LGBTs (70.47–70.53) and 70.43 (age of criminality).

4. Although Guyana did not accept Recommendations 70.44, 70.45 and 70.46, it re-affirmed its commitment to investigate any and all allegations of extra-judicial killings through a transparent process and report on efforts made.

5. Guyana noted the contents of the Mid-Term Assessment (MIA-Guyana) and wishes to register its deep concern that no communication was received from the UNHRC prior to this assessment being done.[1]

6. **Part I** of this report provides information on **Methodology and Consultation** and an **Update on the Challenges, Risks and Threats. Part II** provides updated information on treaties Guyana ratified in the interim as recommended in **Section A**; an update on the recommendations it agreed to consult on in **Section B**, and the progress report on the implementation of the recommendations which already enjoy the support of Guyana in **Section C**. The recommendations have been addressed under thematic heads.

Part I

Methodology and consultation

7. The Government tabled "A Compendium of Documents on Guyana before the First Universal Periodic Review of the UNHRC, 8th session May 11, 2010 and the UNHRC 15th session, September 23, 2010", to the National Assembly on October 18, 2010. The list of recommendations was highlighted for the attention of all 65 Members of Parliament and the Speaker of the 9th Parliament.

8. As part of the consultative process on the 27 recommendations listed at Para # 3 herein, a decision was taken with the commencement of the 10th Parliament[2], to bring these matters before the National Assembly. The Government tabled a motion on these recommendations asking that these matters be sent to a Parliamentary Special Select Committee. This was approved by the National Assembly on August 9, 2012[3]. The 9 member Parliamentary Special Select Committee was appointed and commenced meeting on November 28, 2012.[4]

9. Discussions on these particular issues have not been restricted to the Legislature. Consultations have been held by the Ministry of Education on the abolition of the corporal punishment across the country. The media and some NGOs including religious organizations have had their own public discourses on the abolition of corporal punishment and the decriminalization of consensual adult same sex sexual relations and discrimination against LGBTs.

10. Amnesty International met the government in 2014 and is working with The Justice Institute to advocate for an official moratorium on the death penalty with the aim of its ultimate abolition.

11. The National Stakeholders Forum continues to function and meets on average 3 times a year under the President's chairmanship to discuss matters of national importance.

Advances, challenges and threats

12. According to the 2012 National Census Guyana's current population is 747,884 persons living within 215,000 square kilometers.[5] [6]

13. The period 2007- 2014 represents the longest period of uninterrupted real economic growth since Independence with an average growth rate of 4.75% in the last five years.[7]

14. This positive growth has encouraged the expansion and diversification of the economy and attracted foreign investment, particularly in the extractive industries, namely gold and oil and natural gas exploration, as well as an expansion of private sector credit.[8]

15. The service industries continued to record overall positive growth of 5.5% at the end of 2013. This was led by the construction sector which recorded 22.6% growth as a result of its robust expansion due to the national housing drive, public sector construction projects and commercial construction.

16. Guyana has continued to maintain one of the lowest human, education and income inequality ratios in the LAC region.[9]

17. Of special note is the Guyana-Norway partnership which is the second largest interim REDD+ partnership in the world and the first national scale model. Under this partnership, Guyana is targeted to earn up to US$250 Million for its forest climate services.

18. So far, Guyana has earned approximately US$150 million. These funds are being channeled through the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF)[10] for the implementation of projects and initiatives identified in Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy.

19. A significant portion of the funds disbursed have gone to interventions that focus on the indigenous population; the US$8.2M Amerindian Development Fund project provides funding to enhance the socio-economic development of Amerindian communities and US$10.8 M is allocated to funding the Amerindian Land Titling Project. (See Para # 38–39, 155–158)

20. The GRIF portfolio also focuses on mitigating the impacts of climate change through various adaptation projects and providing clean and affordable energy solutions for the country.

21. These positive achievements in the economy have been tempered and sometimes overshadowed by the political situation that has emerged since the November 2011 elections. The ruling party received the largest single bloc of votes but has one seat less than the two opposition parties combined under the proportional representation electoral system.

22. The 10th Parliament has witnessed the reduction of the annual budgets for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 by the opposition majority totaling approximately over GY$90 Billion (US$450M). This has had a major impact on the implementation of national developmental agenda, slashing funds allocated for major transformative infrastructural projects in alternative energy and transportation as well services to and for further integration of indigenous communities into mainstream economy.[11]

23. This legislative stalemate led to the defeat of eight government bills[12]. Most significant of these was the defeat in 2013 of the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, and, its subsequent re-submission and non-passage in 2014. This has brought Guyana under the review of the Financial Action Task Force in June 2014.

24. The resulting political gridlock has contributed to significant uncertainty in the political environment and economic outlook with real concerns for political stability and investor confidence.

25. In December 2012, the Government was so concerned that it officially submitted information to the UN, the OAS Permanent Council, the Commonwealth, the UNASUR and CARICOM warning of the threat to Guyana's emerging parliamentary democracy by the present state of instability in the Legislature. Since then the situation has worsened.

26. In the face of a no confidence motion tabled by the opposition parties in August 2014, President Donald Ramotar addressed the nation on November 10, 2014 and announced his decision to prorogue the Parliament, thereby preserving the life of the 10th Parliament, and creating space for "cooling of tempers" and opportunities for dialogue between the government and the opposition. If this approach failed the Parliament would be dissolved and national and regional elections called.[13] The President has since announced that elections will be held in 2015.

27. In spite of this situation, the poverty reduction programme and pro-poor pro-growth developmental approach continue and have contributed to significant improvements in the quality of life of Guyanese citizens, especially children. (see Para # 116–148)

Part II

Section A

Recommendations 68.1, 68.4, 68.5, 68.6, 68.7, 68.8, 68.9, 70.1, 70.3

28. Guyana's initial reports, with the assistance of UNICEF, to the Optional Protocol to the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Children on Children in Armed Conflict will be submitted by January 2015. So too, its initial report on the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families.

29. Guyana ratified/acceded to the following:

- Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155)[14]
- Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)[15]
- UNESCO Convention Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage[16]
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[17]

Recommendations 70.13. 70.14, 70.54, 70.55

30. Guyana is actively considering ratifying the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of refugees and its 1967 Protocol.[18]

Section B

Recommendations 68.2, 68.3, 70.2, 70.4, 70.5, 70.6, 70.7, 70.8

31. The outstanding Conventions and Optional Protocols listed in these recommendations continue to be under consideration.[19]

Abolition of the death penalty

Recommendations 70.9, 70.23-70.35

32. The Parliamentary Special Select Committee referred to in **Para # 8** herein was specifically tasked with seeking to determine the attitude of Guyanese, particularly the families of victims, criminologists, and professionals, on capital punishment and its possible abolition. However, its work in the reporting period focused on the abolition of corporal punishment.

33. The **Criminal Law Offences (Amendment) Act 21 of 2010**[20] removed the mandatory death penalty for persons convicted of murders and made provisions for life imprisonment and imprisonment with the possibility of parole. The death penalty was retained in limited cases such as murder of a police officer on duty or treason.

34. As a result, during the past 5 years over 15 prisoners on death row have had their sentence commuted to life imprisonment, and, some of these will be coming up for parole in the next 3 years. One prisoner on death row was exonerated in 2012. At the time of reporting there are 13 male prisoners on death row.

35. In this period no prisoner on death row has been executed.

ILO Convention No. 169 and the UNDRIP

Recommendations 70.10, 70.11, 70.12

36. Guyana has given consideration to ratifying the ILO Convention No. 169. However, Guyana continues to focus, within available resources, on its treaty obligations to the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Guyana has taken operational steps to implement the UNDRIP.

37. Recognising the historic injustices perpetrated against the Amerindian peoples, the revised Guyana Constitution by **Articles 14 9** and **149 G**[21] and the **Amerindian Act 2006**[22], provide for and guarantee Amerindian land rights, self-determination, governance and culture within Guyana subject to state sovereignty.

38. Guyana's land ownership is unique. The largest land owner is the state and the second largest landowners are the Amerindian (indigenous) villages who own communal land titles totaling 14% of Guyana's land mass. In fact, the Committee may wish to note that communal lands are only titled to Indigenous Communities and no other groups of persons. The majority of land is distributed by lease or free hold in the agricultural sector and by license in the mining and forestry sectors. Private individual land owners own the smallest percentage.

39. Government has continued to focus on Amerindian land rights reported in 2010. 103 Amerindian villages have been awarded absolute grants and 83 have been demarcated so

far. The Amerindian Titling and Demarcation Project is expected to complete all titling and demarcation of Amerindian lands requested by communities.[23]

40. S 4 of the Amerindian Act provides for the establishment of locally-elected Village Councils and Community Councils,[24] whose mandate is to ensure good governance and management, and use of land and natural resources in their respective villages. The election of the Toshaos and Amerindian Village Councils and Community Councils takes place every 3 years as required by the Amerindian Act 2006.

41. The National Toshaos[25] Council (NTC)[26] and/or Amerindian NGOs choose their representatives to sit on the 3 constitutional rights commissions – the Indigenous People's Commission, the Ethnic Relations Commission, and the Women and Gender Equality Commission –[27]which offer direct opportunities to address any violation of their rights and to advocate for change.

42. Guyana's model of inclusionary governance facilitates the participation of indigenous leaders and people in the political landscape, free to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Amerindian elected leaders and communities are included and participate in all major national strategic, legislative, and developmental forums.

43. Amerindian NGOs and the NTC continue to participate in the consultation process in the updating of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS).Representatives of the NTC, an Amerindian NGO, government agencies and civil society are members of the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee on Climate Change.

Recommendations 70.15, 70.16, 70.17, 70.18 (UNHR special procedures)

44. Guyana reiterates its readiness to continue to respond to invitations and to offer full collaboration with mandate holders.

Recommendation 70.19

45. Guyana will continue to keep this open for future consideration. (see **Para # 180, 183–4, 195)**

Abolish corporal punishment

Recommendations 70.36, 70.37, 70.38, 70.39, 70.40, 70.41

46. The Training School (Amendment) Act 2010[28] and the Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Act 2010[29] abolished corporal punishment in juvenile correctional institutions.

47. The new Child Care and Development Services Act (2011) also prohibits corporal punishment in institutional residences.

48. The Parliamentary Special Select Committee (PSSC) referred to herein (see **Para #8**) publicly invited, received and heard submissions from a broad cross-section of society.[30]

49. It became evident during these consultations and presentations to the PSSC that the abolition of corporal punishment in schools remains an issue on which sections of society are staunchly and equally divided; there has been no general consensus in civil society or in the PSSC on the way forward thus far.

Minimum age of criminal responsibility

Recommendation 70.43

50. The draft Juvenile Justice Bill is still under consultative review.

LGBT Rights

Recommendations 70.47, 70.48, 70.49, 70.50, 70.51, 70.52, 70.53

51. The mandate of the Parliamentary Special Select Committee (PSSC) (**Para # 8**) was to receive and hear submissions on the attitude of Guyanese to any changes in legislative provisions and the criminal code regarding consensual adult same sex relationships and discrimination, perceived or real, against Lesbians, Gays, Bi-Sexual and Transgender persons. Fundamentally, the PSSC's would have had to consider whether to recommend the repeal of the S351-353 of the **Criminal Offences Act** (which criminalises same sex/gender intimacy between consenting adult men in private) and S 153(1)(xlvii) of the **Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act** (cross dressing), and, to amend S4 of the **Prevention of Discrimination Act** to include sexual orientation. There is nothing in Guyana's laws prohibiting consensual female adult same sex sexual relations. Due to the prorogation of the 10th Parliament this Committee's work has ceased.

52. During this period, there has been free and unfettered freedom of expression by NGOs including the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD), religious organizations and the media on these issues.

53. In response to SASOD's June 15th 2014 submission to the UNHRC UPR on LGBT Rights in Guyana, Government wishes to reiterate that the State does not discriminate[31] against persons based on their sexual orientation and that every Guyanese is entitled to their right to freedom of expression, employment, housing, medical care, education as provided for in the constitution, laws and policies of Guyana. The Government is unaware of the references made in their submission with regards to discrimination in employment. Regrettably these complaints appear to have not been brought to the attention of the Chief Labour Officer, the Public Service Commission or to the courts' attention.

54. Any aggrieved person is free to approach the courts on a constitutional motion. To date there has been one such case in February 2010 seeking constitutional relief against the state. The Magistrate found 4 men guilty of cross-dressing in 2010. The matter was heard in the High Court before the Chief Justice who ruled in September 2013 refusing all relief sought by applicants except that he found the right of the applicants to be informed of the reason for their arrest and detention under **Article 139** was infringed upon by the police (an agent of the state). The Chief Justice awarded GY $40,000 to each of the four applicants. On October 17, 2013 the applicants appealed the decision of the Chief Justice to the Court of Appeal where the matter now resides.

55. Guyana, however, acknowledges that there are interpersonal prejudices based on cultural attitudes and religious beliefs as reflected in a 2013 survey which indicated that 25% of Guyanese are homophobic.

Section C

Update on commitments, Part II (A/HRC/15/14)

Discrimination

Recommendations 68.10, 69.8

56. Guyana's State Party reports referred to in **Para # 2** herein have documented Guyana's efforts to advance the position of women, children and non-discrimination towards minorities, indigenous peoples, women and children in accordance with the Constitution, laws and policies and treaty obligations.

Legislative Reforms[32] *– enhancing human rights and protections*

- The Persons with Disabilities Act 2010[33]
- Defence (Amendment) Act. 2011[34]
- Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Act 2011[35]
- Adoption of Children (Amendment) Act 2011[36]
- Childcare and Development Services Act 2011[37]
- Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2013
- The Rights of Persons in Common Law Union (Amendment) Act 2012.[38]

57. In addition, five sets of regulations relevant to the Children's Bill were enacted in 2012.[39]

58. Of special note is the enactment of the 2010 **Judicial Review Act**[40], Cap. 3:06 which caters for the Courts to "*review acts or omissions of a Minister, public body, public authority, tribunal, board, committee, or any person or body exercising or failing to exercise any public power or duty conferred or imposed by the Constitution or any written law.*"

Non-legislative action

59. Guyana's consistent efforts to combat disparities and discrimination (real or perceived) by providing equal access to goods and services regardless of geography, ethnicity, religion, social origin, gender are documented. In **Para# 116-148.**

60. The appointment of an Ombudsman in January 2014, the recent parliamentary approval of the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC), the continued functioning and capacity building of the Women and Gender Equality Commission (W & GEC), the Indigenous Peoples Commission (IPC), the Ethnic Relations Commission and the Rights of the Child Commission (ROCC) and the parliamentary re-appointment of the Judicial, Public and Police Service Commissions establish a framework for protection, promotion of human rights and complaints mechanisms for redress by citizens with regard to rights enshrined in the Constitution and laws of the country, and, the Conventions ratified by Guyana.

61. The Committee may wish to note that Ombudsman under the Constitution and the **Ombudsman Act** Cap:19:04[41] is empowered to "*investigate any action taken by any department of Government, by the President, Ministers, officers or members of such a department or authority, being action taken in exercise of the administrative functions of that department or authority*".

62. Noteworthy is that the High Court of the Supreme Court of Guyana has established a special constitutional and public law court in 2011, which deals exclusively with constitutional and public law matters. This has allowed for constitutional motions to be addressed expeditiously.

63. The Inclusive Governance component of UNDAF 2012-2016 Country Programme focuses on training and capacity building of the four rights commissions in accordance with their constitutional mandates. The UNICEF CPAP also works with the Rights of the Child Commission.[42]

64. Guyana reiterates[43] that the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services includes scrutiny of areas and issues relating to children.[44] This committee functioned in the 10th Parliament.

Persons with disabilities

65. With the enactment of The Persons with Disabilities Act 2010, the National Commission on Disability (NCD) has been appointed and serves as the national focal point for persons with disabilities.

66. The MoED's Strategic Plan 2008–2013 was aimed at achieving Inclusive Education for All children and this objective is further strengthened in the 2014–2018 Plan with special attention to children with disabilities.

67. The Ministries of Health (MOH), Education (MoED) and Labour, Human Services and Social Security (MLHSSS)[45] have worked assiduously in collaboration with the NCD and non-governmental organizations to address the challenges and realities facing persons with disabilities.[46]

Cultural and ethnic diversity and solidarity

Recommendation 68.13, 68.22

68. Guyana is a signatory to the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

69. Guyana acknowledges its ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic diversity through the celebration of historic, religious, cultural and ethnic traditions and practices at the national, regional and community levels. There are 13 public holidays which acknowledge the end of slavery, indenture labour migration, religious holidays and independence.

70. In August 2014 Government launched the Guyana Festival aimed at promoting awareness and appreciation of Guyana's multi-ethnic, multi-cultural diverse heritage. Events like this help to promote intercultural understanding and solidarity and reduce ethnic insecurities.[47]

Participation of women

Recommendation 69.23

71. Guyana has made major progress towards promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The **2013 Global Gender Gap Report** ranked Guyana at 33 out of 136 in the area of overall Political Empowerment. In Women in Parliament, Guyana is ranked at 29th and 24th for Women in Ministerial Positions.[48]

72. Women Members of Parliament have increased from 18.5% in 1992 to 32.3% in 2013. Women occupy 31% of the seats in the 10 elected Regional Democratic Councils.

73. Women are well represented in public life. Women occupy key ministerial and decision-making portfolios[49] as well as senior technical positions in the public service.[50] Five of the ten Judges and 11 of the 18 Magistrates are female.[51]

74. The **IFC/World Bank Entreprises Survey 2010** (Guyana 2010) found that permanent full time female workers is 39.1%, higher than the average for LAC (37.5%) and lower middle income countries (32.6%).[52]

75. The percentage of firms with top female managers is 17.7% which is slightly below the average for LAC (20.8%) and lower middle income countries (20.4%). The private/public partnership of the National Working Group on MDGs held a recent workshop to highlight the need to address this issue.

76. However the percentage of firms with female participation in ownership is 58.3%, higher than LAC (42.7%) and lower middle income countries (37.6%).[53]

77. Under Economic Participation and Economic Opportunities, the Global Gender Gap ranked Guyana at 41 for wage equality for similar work.[54]

Work environment

Recommendations 70.21, 70.22

78. Guyana's legislative framework includes The Equal Rights Act 1990, The Prevention of Discrimination Act 1997, The Persons with Disabilities Act 2010, Public Service Rules and several labour laws which prohibit discrimination in employment.

79. Government introduced and enacted A National Minimum Wage by Order in July, 2013 for all workers.

80. On 18th April 2012, Guyana signed the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) which was formulated through a national tripartite dialogue between the ILO, the Labour Ministry and social partners.[55] The DCWP is directly linked to the Poverty Reduction Strategy and intended to stimulate "broad-based, jobs generating economic growth", focus on "regional pockets of poverty" and promote "environmental protection".[56]

Ethnic discrimination

Recommendation 69.30

81. The rights of Afro-Guyanese peoples who represent 30.2% of the population[57] are ensured in every aspect of society, housing, education, health among others. The efforts at reducing poverty and improving equal access to goods and services to all citizens aim to ensure that neither Afro-Guyanese nor any other ethnic group is excluded. (see **Para # 116–148**)

82. In 2011, Government supported the planning and coordination of activities for the International Year of People of African Descent. Events were planned by a broad-based Steering Committee[58] comprised of Afro-Guyanese groups[59] supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport (MCYS).

83. Guyana supported UNGA Resolution 61/19 and is part of the CARICOM Reparations Committee calling for reparations for the descendants of Africans who were enslaved and brought to work in the British, French, Dutch and Spanish colonies. As a result Guyana has established a broad based committee of 30 Afro-Guyanese groups which is preparing Guyana's submission to CARICOM for its reparations claims to these former colonial powers.

Human rights institution and treaty obligation

Recommendations 68.11, 69.1, 69.2

84. The rights constitutional Commissions[60], the Ethnic Relations Commission[61] and the Human Rights Commission[62] are responsible for monitoring and reviewing all existing legislation, policies and measures for compliance, and reporting the need for amendment to any legislation to the National Assembly.[63]

85. The independence and impartiality of these Commissions are assured by virtue of the mechanism for the members' appointment and election. Article 212 G provides for the Commissions to be funded by a direct charge upon the Consolidated Fund.[64] This article is in compliance with the Paris Principles.

86. Until such time as the umbrella Human Rights Commission is appointed,[65] Guyana will not be fully compliant with the Paris Principles. Guyana's position regrettably remains the same.

Recommendations 68.12, 68.25

87. Guyana has reported on these recommendations. (see **Para # 2, 28–30)**

88. Of the 47 ILO conventions Guyana has ratified up to date, 13 reports are outstanding.

Domestic and sexual violence

Recommendations 68.14, 68.15, 68.16, 68.17, 69.11

89. The promotion and enforcement of the Sexual Offences Act (SOA) 2010[66], the 1996 Domestic Violence Act and its regulations[67], and, the National Domestic Violence Policy form the framework for the reduction of all forms of violence and abuse against women and children and protection to the victims. This is enhanced through a multi-sectoral multi-dimensional approach.

90. The 2013 amendment to the Sexual Offences Act 2010 removed flaws in the paper committal procedure based on the recommendations of the Rules Committee of the Judicial Service Commission.

91. The Domestic Violence Act (1996) specifically provides victims of domestic violence with a relatively simple, quick and inexpensive means of obtaining protection from their abusive partners, through Protection Orders, and Occupation and Tenancy Orders[68].Victims are afforded free legal advice and representation by the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic.[69]

92. In 2011, the Men's Affairs Bureau (MAB) was established in the MHSSS in recognition that the culture of violence requires specific inclusion of and attention to boys and men. The MAB advocates responsible male behavior and parenthood and works to end domestic and sexual violence.

93. The June 27, 2012 "National Conversation on Domestic Violence" under the theme, "It's Our Problem, Let's Solve It!" focused on (i) further sensitization of the public and identification of preventative mechanisms to address domestic violence;(ii) developing a road map and a National Action Plan on Domestic Violence in Guyana, accompanied by a Comprehensive Communication Strategy and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of domestic violence cases and other reported cases of violence in our society.

94. In November 2013, a two day National Conference for the Prevention of Interpersonal Violence was held which included the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana

Prison Service, the Ministries of Health, Education, Human Services and Social Security and FBOs, NGOs and the Private sector. It concluded that a multidisciplinary approach to exploring intimate partner violence (IPV) was required. More than fifty recommendations emanated which are in various stages of implementation.

95. Over the last 4 years, the media, civil society and community and faith based organizations have played a more pro-active with regard to combating violence against women and children. **Table 1** indicates that there has been a decrease in the total number of reports by more than 50%, a reduction of matters pending before the police from 51% to 25%, and increase in persons charged from 25% to 52%. These figures indicate some improvements in reducing the levels of domestic violence and the protection of victims.

Table 1 Data on Domestic Violence from 2011 to 2013

Year	*Persons charged*	*Persons warned*	*Matters pending*	*Matters sent to probation*	*Missing*	*Other*	*Total No. of reports*
2011	1,918	260	2,956	558	nil	nil	5,692
2012	1,715	106	1,406	149	nil	nil	3,376
2013	1,640	60	841	86	12	5	2,644
Total	**5,273**	**426**	**5,203**	**793**	**12**	**5**	**11,712**

Source: Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, 2014

96. In 2014, another safe haven for victims of domestic and sexual violence and trafficking was opened by the largest Hindu religious organization, the Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha, with a training centre built nearby by another Hindu organization, the Guyana Central Arya Samaj. These will offer additional protection for victims in rural areas and add to the space offered by another NGO, Help and Shelter. These receive financial support from the government.

97. In addition, in July 2014, the National Task Force on Sexual Violence held a special session to review the draft protocols[70] for the police, prosecutors, magistrates, social workers and medical practitioners under the Sexual Offences Act 2010 and examine the new draft action plan. This plan is expected to be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Recommendation 69.9

98. The Guyana Police Force (GPF) has taken measures to (i) establish Domestic Violence and Sexual Offence Units at Force Headquarters, and in the 7 Police Divisions; (ii) train Ranks and encourage more people-friendly precincts; (iii) remodel key precincts with designated private spaces to facilitate reporting such cases; and (iv) work with Non-Governmental Organisations and the MHSSS.

99. The partnership between the Guyana Police Force and Faith Based Organisations (known as the COPS and FAITH COMMUNITY NETWORK)(CFCN) has improved the manner in which these cases are addressed.

100. Whilst the number of persons charged and sentenced for domestic violence offences by Magistrates has increased significantly, the number of successful prosecutions and convictions of sexual offences has been disappointing. The rate of convictions for sexual offences for the period 2008–2014 is 23.6%.[71] One high profile case of pedophilia has not been concluded after 4 years.

101. Two recent rulings by a High Court Judge and the Chief Justice are particularly worrisome. A Judge granted an injunction to gag a person who claims he was a victim of sexual violence as a child from publicly speaking even on Facebook. An appeal by the victim to the High Court was thrown out. In the second case the Chief Justice was

approached to rule that a Magistrate's use of the paper committal procedure in the 2013 amended Sexual Offences Act was unconstitutional. The CJ ruled that the Magistrate had complied with the law but that the Act was unconstitutional. The Attorney General requested a stay of the Chief Judge's ruling which was granted and the case will be heard. In the interim, this stay now allows a large number of rape cases that have been pending to proceed.[72]

Recommendation 69.10

Child protection

102. The challenge is the implementation of the 2009-2011 laws (see **Para #56–57**), within available human and technical resources. Focus is on ensuring that the protection mechanisms are operating effectively to address the issue of ill treatment, all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse, child exploitation and capacity building of the relevant agencies and civil society bodies.

103. Recognizing that child victims, in particular, have difficulties in disclosing abuse of any kind, the TELL Campaign was introduced to address this vulnerability in 2012.[73]

104. This is a collaborative effort between the MHSSS, MoED and MoAA (Ministry of Amerindian Affairs) with the Police, Parent Teacher Associations, teachers and NGOs. It is designed to encourage children to disclose any form of sexual or other violence without fear or intimidation. It targets primary school children whilst having an overall public awareness approach on the Sexual Offences Act.[74]

105. The Child Care and Protection Agency (CCPA) has continued to investigate child abuse cases reported throughout the country.[75] The CCPA received 3,999 cases of child abuse in 2011, 3,689 in 2012 and 3,342 in 2013, all of which were investigated and addressed.[76]

106. Its pro-active role have prevented 2,432 children from being separated from their families, while 519 children were removed from abusive situations and 207 placed in a family setting through the foster care programme.

Trafficking in persons

Recommendation 68.20, 69.15, 69.17, 68.20, 69.15, 69.17

107. Government has remained committed to its multi-sectoral approach to address the issue of human trafficking in accordance with the 2005 Combating Trafficking in Persons Act.

108. The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons[77] meets monthly in order to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate national strategies relating to trafficking in persons. This body is chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs and includes a number of focal points from Governmental and Non-Governmental entities. Through this mechanism, coordination has been enhanced and has proven to be instrumental in avoiding overlap of activities or gaps in the response to trafficking in persons.

109. Administratively, a Trafficking in Persons Unit was established at the Criminal Investigations Department, GPF and a Countering Trafficking in Person Unit in the MHSSS which works closely with the Police.

110. Currently, the Ministerial Task Force is implementing initiatives outlined in the 2014-2015 National Action Plan (NPA).[78] The objectives of the NPA include: to provide information about Trafficking in Persons (TIP) to vulnerable communities; to improve cooperation mechanisms among key stakeholders to prevent TIP; to enhance capacity of

hinterland communities to prevent TIPs; to provide appropriate and comprehensive direct assistance to victims; to enhance capacity of stakeholders to identify victims and provide direct assistance through training; to formalise and strengthen a National Referral Mechanism and Inter-agency protocol; to enhance the capacity of the Law Enforcement Agencies to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers; and to enhance cooperative and enforcement mechanisms among neighbouring countries to convict traffickers and protect victims.

111. The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons has made repeated assessments of the agriculture and forestry sectors which have not unearthed any significant evidence of trafficking in persons, and, continues to actively monitor the mining districts, domestic services and retail sector within rural and interior areas. The Task Force works in collaboration with the Ministries of Natural Resources and the Environment, Labour, and, Amerindian Affairs, as well as the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, the Guyana Forestry Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other key stakeholders in order to coordinate efforts and ensure compliance.

112. This body has conducted a series of programmes from 2010–2014 to heighten awareness on trafficking. These include surveillance in the hinterland[79], visits to hinterland mining districts, training of members of the Community Policing Groups and the police officers[80] assigned to the hinterland regions and other mining districts.

113. The MoAA has focused on TIPs education and awareness training in Amerindian communities,[81] and the MHSSS/MoED in collaboration with UNICEF, conducted country wide school awareness campaigns on TIPs.[82]

114. Between January-July 2014, the Ministerial Task Force's focused on outreaches to secondary schools and interior mining communities.[83]

115. For Y2013 there were 9 reports of trafficking involving 20 persons, 3 convictions, and 5 cases are still before the courts. One case was dismissed. In 2012 there were 3 cases.

Poverty reduction, equal access to goods and services

Recommendations 68.21, 69.7, 69.27, 69.28

116. The 2011-2015 Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP) rests on the following pillars; (i)broad-based, low-carbon led job creation economic growth;(ii) stronger governance institutional, and regulatory structures; (iii) accelerated investment in human capital, and primary health care; (iv) accelerated investment in physical infrastructure in support of growth strategy; and (v) special intervention programmes to address regional and demographic pockets of poverty.[84]

117. This PRSP continues targeting the poor and vulnerable sections of the population and aims to provide equal access to and delivery of goods and services, support greater integration and social cohesion, improve the quality of life and realization of human rights.

118. Through continuous investments in Education, Health, Water, Housing, Human Services and Social Security and Amerindian Affairs which now assume 34.5% of the 2014 annual budget, Guyana continues to make strides in its poverty reduction goals. See **Table 2, Appendix I, Allocations to the Social Sector, 2009-2014.**

Other forms of relief and initiatives:

(a) Guyana continues to offer a wide range of relief and social safety nets for the poor and vulnerable in the society.[85]

(b) The One Lap Top Programme, referred to in Guyana's 2010 UPR report, provided training and free lap tops to 51,214 households by mid-2014. By the end of 2015 the target of 90,000 households will be met. This was an initiative of the government to equalize access to modern technology.

(c) It is estimated that 1% of the population live in extreme poverty.[86] To address this specific group, there are two residential centres for the homeless catering to over 370 adults. The Hugo Chavez Centre for Rehabilitation and Re-integration of the Homeless was opened in 2014 through a Guyana/Venezuela bilateral agreement and caters to 180 persons.

Education

119. Progress within the Education sector has been significant and evident. The MDG Guyana Progress Report 2011[87] noted that Guyana has made excellent progress towards achieving universal primary education. In addition, Guyana has met its target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, and strives towards parity at the tertiary level.[88]

120. According to the 2013 **Global Gender Gap Report** Guyana[89] is ranked 1 out of a total of 136 countries in Educational Attainment.[90] This is a major achievement for a small developing country.

121. This has been achieved through massive investment in the education sector[91] in order to better equip its physical plant and provide more trained teachers.[92] Guyana continues to offer free education from nursery, primary and secondary levels at government funded schools. Less than 15% attend private schools.

122. As a result, hundreds of schools have been built and or refurbished across the country; 72% of teachers are trained and more than 50% of the teachers in the Hinterland regions are now trained teachers through the Guyana Basic Education Teacher Training Programme. As a result, the attendance and academic performance of school children at all levels have showed dramatic improvement at national and regional periodic assessments.

123. This sector has played a critical role in equalizing access to opportunities for children regardless of where they live, ethnicity, religion or class. This is most dramatically evident in the interior and Amerindian communities where all Amerindian and interior children have access to all levels of education.

124. Today, there are 116 nursery schools, 139 primary schools, and 13 secondary schools[93] with dormitories[94] in the far interior of Guyana, an increase from 130 in 1994 to 400 schools in 2014. Almost 6000 children attend secondary schools in the interior.

125. Over GY$1B was expended on the National School Feeding Programme which benefitted over 65,000 children across the country with fortified snacks and or hot meals. Over 16,000 school children in three interior regions benefitted.

126. The government offers universal school uniform allowances to all children enrolled in the government education system at nursery, primary and secondary levels.

127. In 2014, the Government introduced the "Because We Care" Cash Grant of $10,000 ($50USD), for every child enrolled in the public school system[95].These two programmes jointly cost GY $4B (US$20M.)

128. These initiatives as well as free exercise and textbooks are all part of a national developmental programme to reduce poverty, and, secure the well-being and future of the next generation.

129. From 2012, Guyana is focusing on achieving universal secondary education and improving the quality of education.

130. The new Education Strategic Plan (2014–2018) will focus on improving literacy rates, early childhood development, teacher training, enrolment in single sciences, technical vocational educational programmes, and more structured partnerships with private sector providers and parents.

131. A new initiative, the Hinterland Education Improvement Project (HEIP) will include a series of public consultations throughout the hinterland regions to assist the MoED to gather information for a five-year action plan.[96]

Health

Recommendation 69.29

132. Guyana continues to invest in the health sector with the aim of improving the quality and longevity of people's lives. Government remains committed to securing access for all to appropriate, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services with improved quality, expansion and delivery of publicly guaranteed health services. Health care services offered by the government remain free.

133. The recently launched National Health Strategy, Health Vision 2020(2013-2020)[97], seeks to further these objectives.

134. The MOH is implementing the Maternal, Peri-natal Strategy and Integrated Child Health Strategy 2011-2015.[98] In 2014, 96 % of all births are attended by skilled health personnel in comparison to 85.6 % in previous years.

135. Guyana continues to offer free Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Treatment and free Anti-Retroviral Treatment at its facilities,[99] thus significantly reducing levels of transmission and extending life and wellness of those affected. These programmes are under pressure due to the reduction of international funding to assist small developing countries.

136. Guyana's decentralized health services reach coastal, rural, riverain and hinterland areas in the ten Administrative Regions and are constantly under review with continued construction and staffing[100] of health huts, health centres and hospitals and the provision of new services around the country. Government has embarked on a public/private partnership for a roving surgical outreach programme which provides specialized services at secondary hospitals in rural and hinterland communities.

137. Guyana's Immunization coverage remains high in all rural and hinterland areas despite challenges with regards to the high costs of accessing remote areas. One of the challenges Guyana faces with improved economic growth is a reduction in access to vaccines at affordable prices through the GAVI Vaccine Alliance.

138. Malaria services including prompt diagnosis and treatment are now available at 87 sites across the hinterland regions.[101]

139. Guyana's bilateral agreements with the Governments of Cuba[102] and China continue to provide specialist doctors, nurses and technicians who assist in the provision of vital health services at hospitals and diagnostic centers.

140. The Centre for Disease Control, though funding has been reduced in 2014, continues to lend some support to the MoH.

Housing sector

141. Guyana national housing programme[103] continues to provide subsidized standardized houselots for low and middle income families through the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH &PA).

142. Through a number of legislative measures as well as Government/commercial banks partnerships, low income households can access loans to build their houses at concessionary rates.[104]

143. Thus, continued emphasis is placed on developing sustainable housing schemes, increasing the provision of low and middle income turnkey housing[105] and expanding construction of core houses[106] while working in partnership with private developers.

144. By the end of 2013, 18,000 households in squatter settlements which emerged over 3 decades were regularized. The Government provided services (water, electricity, roads, et cetera) and security of tenure with Certificates of Title to Land to regularized squatters.

145. The 2012 Census pegged the national building stock at 219,509 buildings. This figure represents an increase of 16.9%[107] over the last ten years. All 10 regions recorded significant increases in their building stocks. Regions with exceptional growth rates, surpassing the national average by a factor of two (2), are Regions 3 (rural) and Regions 7 and 9 (interior).[108]

146. Guyana is proud of the Achievements of the National Housing programme which it advocates as a model of "good practice" and provides for the right to shelter, right to tenure and security, women's empowerment and sustainable harmonious community development.[109]

Water

Recommendation 69.24

147. Recognizing the link between water, sanitation and poverty, the Guyana Water Incorporated's Strategic Plan (2012–2016)[110] is aimed at improving water and solid waste sanitation services as part of its Poverty Reduction Strategy.

148. As a result the supply of potable water now reaches in excess of 95% of the population in the coastal areas and 73% in the hinterland areas. The population with access to treated water has increased from 26% to 50% presently.[111]

Food security and climate change

Recommendations 69.24, 69.25 (Reduce hunger)

149. Guyana produces all the food required for its citizens.[112] Government has continued to place emphasis on food security and climate change by transforming agriculture and adopting practices that are "climate-smart", increase productivity, resilience (adaption), reduce/remove greenhouse gases (mitigation), and enhance achievement of national food security and development goals. Thus, a number of production systems are already being used by farmers and food producers to adapt to climate change and reduce vulnerability.

150. Guyana's vulnerability as a low lying country to floods has lead to an enhanced Civil Defence Commission, early weather forecasting and constant and consistent investment and maintenance of the drainage and irrigation, sea and river defence systems.

151. Guyana was honoured at the 38th session of the FAO Conference for attaining the targets set by both MDG #1 and the goal set by the 1996 World Food Summit of halving the absolute number of hungry people by 2015.

152. The prevalence of undernourishment has been reduced from 19.1% (1990–1992) to 5.1% (2010 and 2012). Thus the absolute number of undernourished persons fell from 143,000 to 38,000. Less than 1% of children under 5 suffer from severe malnutrition.

153. The Guyana National Nutrition Strategy (GNNS) 2009-2015 aims to ensure that all Guyanese, regardless of age, race, religion, or geographic location, attain an adequate nutritional status.

154. The second GoG/IBD Basic Nutrition Programme (BNP-2) resulted in significant reduction of several vital nutrition deficits including reduction in iron deficiency anemia (**Table 3**), elimination of severe malnutrition, reduction in stunting and wasting in children (**Table 4**)[113].

Table 3: Anemia prevalence in Children in Guyana (1997 and 2013)

Age group	*Anemia prevalence (%)*		*% Change*
	1997	*2013*	
0–4 years	47.9	24.0	50.0
5–14 years	56.7	20.8	63.3

Table 4: Prevalence of Malnutrition, stunting and wasting in Guyana (2003, 2009, 2012)

Age group		*Underweight*	*Stunting*	*Wasting*	*Overweight*
0–4 years	2006	5.9	6.7	4.1	1.4
	2009	2.0	5.1	1.9	6.1
	2012	1.2	3.6	1.7	9.9

Amerindian rights

Recommendations 68.23, 68.24

155. Government has continued to channel resources toward the development of Amerindian communities. Through the REDD+ GRIF programme and expanded budgetary allocation for the Ministries of Amerindian Affairs, Education, Health and Water,[114] and the Regional Democratic Councils, the quality of life has vastly improved and there is more equitable access of the delivery of goods and services for Amerindian communities. (see **Para # 116-148**)

156. Of particular concern in this period is that the opposition Legislature slashed the 2014 capital budget of the MoAA to zero thereby throwing out projects and programmes for the development of Amerindian and interior communities. As a result, the two main sources for initiatives for Amerindian development are:

Amerindian Development Fund (ADF) – US$ 8.2 million

157. The ADF provides funding to support the socio-economic development of Amerindian communities and villages through the implementation of their Community Development Plans (CDPs). Over the two (2) phases of the project, approximately 180[115] communities will benefit. All CDPs were approved by consensus or majority vote at village meetings.[116]

Amerindian Land Titling (ALT) – US$ 10.8 Million

158. This project aims to have land titles issued and the demarcation process completed for Amerindian villages that submit requests, including those that request and qualify for extensions (see **Para #38–39).** It is expected to strengthen land tenure security and the

expansion of the asset base of Amerindians, enabling improved long term planning and future development.

159. The MoAA initiated the Youth Entrepreneurship and Apprenticeship Programme (YEAP)[117] which offered skills training for young Amerindians. In addition, two thousand Community Support Officers[118] were selected by and from the Amerindian communities to service these communities as well as interior villages.

160. Under the One Lap Top Per Family Programme,[119] GY$287.7 M (USD1.43M) was expended to procure solar systems for the 100 ICT hubs in Amerindian villages. Under this programme, the construction of 100 hubs in 100 villages will benefit 57,000 persons, including training of one person from each village in basic computer skills and maintenance.

161. Between 2011 and 2014, the distribution of individual household solar units under the Solar Home Systems Distribution Programme[120] brought electricity for the first time to 13,170 Amerindian homes in 130 Amerindian communities.

162. Government will continue these interventions to enhance the livelihoods and development of Amerindian communities and improve their well-being and integration into mainstream Guyana.

Justice and security sector reforms

Recommendation 69.3

163. Major steps have been taken and significant financial investments have been made in the criminal justice sector and the administration of justice since 2010.

164. The GoG/IDB Modernisation of the Justice Administration System (MJAS)[121] project concluded in 2013. Its achievements included the law revision of all laws as amended up to date, published and posted on www.legalaffairs.gov.gy, the creation of and the posting of the Official Gazette on **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**training for personnel within the sector, preparation for voice recognition recordings in the courts, updating and digitalising of the Law reports and the laws of Guyana, legal awareness campaign and increased access to justice for Guyanese.

165. Key and critical pieces of modern legislation to enhance this sector such as the Interception of Communication Act 2008, Time Limit for Judicial Decisions Act 2009, the Judicial Review Act 2010, the Alternate Dispute Resolution Act 2010, Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters 2010, The Legal Practitioners Act 2011, The Broadcasting Act 2011 and The Access to Information Act 2011 were enacted in the 9th Parliament.

166. To improve oversight, monitoring, accountability and enhance coordination within this sector, a number of initiatives have been introduced. Civil and Criminal Justice Committees were established under the MJAS project to strengthen the accountability and service delivery in the justice sector; enhance linkages and coordination within justice sector institutions; improving access to justice; facilitate coordination and cooperation among institutions responsible for all aspects of the justice system and ensure that the institutions involved in the justice system work more efficiently and effectively.[122]

167. The Chancellor of the Judiciary has also established a Committee consisting of Magistrates, Court Prosecutors and Prison Officers which meets monthly to discuss criminal matters, remand prisoners, bail, trials and inquests.

168. The Director of Public Prosecutions has established a Criminal Sector Committee that meets monthly to address police matters before the courts.

169. In February 2014, the Puisne Judges (Maximum Number) Order[123] was issued which increased the number of Puisne Judges to 20. This will facilitate greater efficiency with which cases are heard and determined. This will significantly diminish the backlog of pre-trial detainees.

170. In 2014, the annual budget for the judiciary was removed from under the Ministry of Legal Affairs and is now a direct charge on the Consolidated Fund, thereby enhancing the independence of the judiciary.

171. The GoG/IDB Citizen Security Programme (CSP) concluded in 2014. The CSP provided significant additional financial and technical support to enhance citizens' security and reduce levels of crime, violence, and insecurity.

172. The CSP injected US$ 25M into this sector with improvements in physical plant, technical expertise and training, new laws and updating of existing laws, revision of policies, protocols and operational procedures. This investment has included the continuum of the administration of justice from prevention measures at the grass roots levels which target youth and vulnerable populations[124], to enhanced intelligence gathering, monitoring, surveillance, investigative[125] and prosecutorial capacity, to improved detention facilities, and post release reintegration.

173. In 2014, the GPF hired a retired High Court Judge as its Legal Adviser to strengthen its investigative and prosecutorial capacity.

174. The broad based National Commission on Law and Order continues to function.

175. The 2004 Report of the Disciplined Forces Commission which was sent to two Parliamentary Special Select Committees in the 8th and 9th Parliament was completed in 2010 with 154 of the 166 recommendations being accepted. The majority of these are in different stages of implementation.

176. The **Constitution (Amendment) Act (No. 5 of 2009)**[126] was enacted on March 17, 2009 which provided for the establishment of a new Parliamentary Standing Committee to Oversight the Security Sector. This Committee has the responsibility for the examining the policies and administration of the entities in the Security Sector, namely the Disciplined Forces.[127]. This Committee can play a significant role in scrutinizing the Disciplined Forces with particular reference to compliance with Guyana's treaty obligations on human rights.

Recommendations 69.4, 69. 5, 69.6, 69.19, 69.20, 69.21, 69.22

177. Guyana wishes to assure the UNHRC that:

(a) The Guyana Police Standing Order No. 18 provides guidelines on the Use of Force and Firearms. Following an examination of international best practice and existing Standing Operating Procedures, the Manual on the use of force and firearms was revised;

(b) Human Rights is a core subject for recruit, supervisor and middle managers' courses at the Felix Austin Police College (FAPC).[128] Training includes the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers, Human Rights, Ethical and Legal Law Enforcement Conduct and the Use of Force and Firearms;

(c) A number of rank and file and officers received overseas training;[129] some receiving and Certification as Human Rights Trainers;

(d) A total of 308 instructors of the Guyana Police Force (GPF) have been trained in crime investigation and detection, information management, recruitment training, case management, ethics and human rights, management of domestic violence and child abuse cases, and, strengthening of internal and external accountability mechanisms;

(e) The new Defence 2014 Regulations provide for military and criminal proceedings for misconduct, abuse and excesses of force.

178. The Constitution strictly prohibits torture and mistreatment of detainees and inmates. The Government has publicly gone on record and condemned any form of abuse and torture and repeatedly demanded that any allegation of torture and mistreatment of citizens, including prisoners, must be expeditiously investigated and action taken against defaulting ranks.

179. In an effort to strengthen its investigative capacity the Police Complaints Authority (PCA)[130] will be establishing its own Investigative Unit in order to conduct investigations independent of the Guyana Police Force (GPF).

180. The PCA has been investigating allegations of unlawful killings, excessive use of force and extrajudicial killings by police by conducting prompt and impartial investigations.

Table 5[131]: Complaints of Police

	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Number of complaints received	167	133	238	241
Unnecessary violence		38		
Number of cases of alleged unlawful killings	8	4	9	1
Number of cases where disciplinary charges brought	34	30	0	40
Number of criminal charges[132]	0	0	0	0
Number of inquests	8	8	0	1
Total	217	213	247	297

181. The Director of Public Prosecutions[133] may recommend that the offender (police) be charged and put before the court, independent of or following the PCA findings. In 2014, several police ranks are before the courts,[134] including those for abuse and torture in lockups.

182. As a result of major disturbances in Administrative Region #10 in July 2012 which resulted in 3 protestors being shot, a Commission of Inquiry was appointed by the President which included 3 Caribbean well known jurists and 2 Guyanese jurists. The COI was held over a 6 month period, and although the COI could not conclude that it was the police who shot the protestors, it recommended that compensation be provided for those who were shot as well as those who suffered losses to themselves or their properties in the violence that followed and the GPF review and amend police protocols with regard to public order and safety. The Government and the GPF implemented these recommendations.

183. With regard to compensation for victims of police excess and torture, a High Court Judge on June 27, 2011 used international human rights law and "exemplary damages for breach of constitutional rights" and "compensatory damages" to award monetary compensation for Twyon Thomas, the victim.[135]

184. In the interim period, there have been 3 cases of torture of persons in pre-trial detention (police lockups) which have led to Boards of Inquiry, complaints to the Police Complaints Authority and to criminal charges being laid against the accused officers.

Matters relating to detention, prisoners welfare

Recommendation 70.42 (mandatory limits for pre-trail detention)

185. As stated in **A/HRC/15/14/Add.1 Part II. Para #5,** Guyana has satisfied this recommendation. Article 139[136] with regards to conditions of detention is in conformity with minimum international standards.

186. Judges in this period have released remand prisoners after undue delays in cases being heard by tardy prosecutors and defense lawyers. Provision is also made for sitting magistrates to visit prisons on particular days of the week to consider bail applications[137] of detainees (remand).

Recommendations 68.18, 68.19 (prevent torture and mistreatment of inmates), 69.13, 69.14, 69.18, 70.20

187. The Prison Act Cap:11:01[138] guides the administration of the Guyana Prison Service (GPS) and is in conformity with the UN Standard Minimum Rules in the Treatment of Offenders. Every effort is made to ensure that the GPS is in compliance. The 2014 Strategic Plan on the Renewal and Reconstruction of the Guyana Prison Service reinforces the strategic enhancement of prison conditions and a shift to corrections and rehabilitation.

188. These reforms are aimed at reintegrating prisoners and especially first offenders[139] and young inmates with basic literacy programmes, anger management and other psycho-social progammes coupled with technical vocational training. The involvement of men's groups and religious organizations are assisting in actively engaging young people within the prison system. These measures have contributed significantly to a reduction of protests by prisoners in relation to prison conditions.

189. In 2013, the total number of prisoners was 1998[140] with 1928 males and 70 females. Of these 711 were on pre-trial (remand) detention and 1287 sentenced.[141] The total prison population, remand and convicted, are accommodated in 5 male prisons and one female prison.

190. The Prison Act provides for the appointment a Visiting Committee at each Prison which monitor prison conditions to ensure that these are in keeping with the statutes. Each Visiting Committee is appointed by the Minister f Home Affairs and comprised of members of civil society such as the Guyana Human Rights Association, the business and religious communities. These bodies[142] report to the Minister on a regular basis and make recommendations for improvements and are expected to report any observations or concerns they have about the treatment of prisoners and their welfare. Any matter/s of mistreatment or torture reported to them is investigated with a view of disciplinary action being taken against any rank/s found guilty.

191. There is one juvenile offenders centre, the New Opportunity Corps, with approx 150 students.

192. In keeping with Article 37 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, children who come into contact with the law are held separately from adults. A juvenile who has been apprehended by the Police is separated in the police precinct from the adults prior to being taken before a Magistrate. Police Standing Orders No. 90 with other Force Standing Orders[143] sets out the guidelines for Care and Custody of children and young persons (Juvenile) in lock ups.

193. It is the policy that juveniles who are arrested are brought before the courts at the earliest date or released into the custody of their parents or guardian who enter into a recognisance until the hearing of the case.

194. Despite special attention given to the general layout of lock ups including better sanitation facilities and increased training of ranks[144], there have been cases of police abuse. (see **Para #184**)

195. There has been no reported case of torture of inmates in prison.

196. Efforts to improve conditions of prisons and welfare and rights of prisoners are ongoing.

Broadcasting

Recommendation 69.31

197. The Broadcasting Act 2011[145] provides for the establishment of the Guyana National Broadcasting Authority with responsibility for the regulation, supervision and development of the National Broadcasting System and the broadcasting policy.

198. The Guyana National Broadcasting Authority was appointed in October 2012.

199. In 2013, 11 television, 10 radio and 6 cable broadcasting companies met the requirements to be licensed under the provisions of the new law.[146]

Conclusion

200. Guyana has made significant efforts to meet most of the commitments it made to the UNHRC in 2010. Although Guyana has a strong constitutional, legal and policy framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, supported by an independent judiciary, it faces many challenges internally and at the regional and international levels. These continue to relate to available human, financial and technical resources in order to more effectively and efficiently implement the many initiatives, policies, statutes and programmes.

201. In the face of serious threats at the time of reporting to Guyana's parliamentary democracy, Guyana will continue to make efforts to support the role of the UN human rights system, including the UPR, within available means and prevailing conditions.

Appendix I

Table 2: Allocations to the Social Sector as a percentage (%) of the National Budget 2009-2014 (Billions of Guyana dollars)

Section	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*
Amerindian Affairs	488.4	497.0	486.4	598.9	833.8	1,554.4
As a % of national budget	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7
Education	19,908.7	20,825.3	23,861.8	25,888.3	28,036.7	31,664.4
As a % of national budget	15.4	14.6	14.8	13.4	13.4	14.4
Health	12,788.0	13,243.7	13,917.7	16,851.3	19,034.1	23,259.7
As a % of national budget	9.9	9.3	8.6	8.7	9.1	10.6
Housing and Water	6,286.6	5,833.2	5,756.4	7,489.8	8,928.3	9,757.1
As a % of national budget	4.9	4.1	3.6	3.9	4.3	4.4
Labour Human Services & Social Security	5,590.4	5,648.2	5,963.1	5,748.7	9,182.8	9,789.3
As a % of national budget	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.0	4.4	4.4
Youth	364.0	396.7	439.4	506.3	525.4	564.9
As a % of national budget	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
National Budget (As presented	128,882.5	142,775.6	161,430.2	192,781.3	208,840.4	220,046.7

Source: Ministry of Finance, National Estimates and Social Sector Table

Separate attachments

Appendix II Parliamentary Resolution # 23 of 2012

Appendix III NTC 2014 report

Notes

[1] www.upr-info.org/followup/assessments/session21/guyana/MIA-guyana.pdf.
[2] Post November 28, 2011 general and regional elections.
[3] Resolution No. 23 of 2012. See **Appendix II attachment.**
[4] Its work plan was tabled and approved by the National Assembly on March 14, 2013.
[5] The national average of persons per square kilometre is 3.5 persons per square kilometre. There are 372,547 males and 375,337 females, thus giving an estimated ratio of 99 males per every 100 females.
[6] Guyana Population and Housing Census 2012 www.statisticsguyana.gov.gy
[7] The IMF has lauded Guyana's fiscal management in this period. The World Bank has projected growth at 4.8 % in 2014. In his Mid Year Review, August 2014, the Minister of Finance estimated it at 4.5 %. Inflation rate was projected in 2014 at 0. 9 %, by mid- 2014 it has declined to 0.4 %.
[8] Bank of Guyana Annual Report 2013, pg 10–15 www.bankofguyana.org.gy
[9] UNDP HDI 2014; Guyana's inequality ratios-education at 10.5%, human at 18% and income at 24.4 %.
[10] See www.guyanareddfund.org
[11] See www.finance.gov.gy Budget Speech 2014
[12] A number of these relate to Guyana's international and regional treaty obligations.
[13] On December 6, 2014 following the rejection of the Leader of the Opposition to hold discussions with the government, the President informed the public that he would be announcing a date for general and regional elections in early 2015. He also stated that he had formally approached various international and regional bodies advising of these developments and requested that they consider sending electoral observers to these elections in 2015.
[14] September 11, 2012.
[15] August 9, 2013.
[16] April 28, 2014.
[17] September 10, 2014.
[18] With competing priorities for limited resources and a fractured legislature, Guyana is not in a position to consider this issue as a priority at this time. However, it shall remain on its agenda for consideration with other treaties.
[19] Although Guyana not a signatory to the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights as a member of the OAS it is nevertheless obliged to report on and to respond to matters brought before the IACHR and it has been complying.
[20] October 10, 2010. See www.legalaffairs.gov.gy/information/laws-of-guyana, Cap11:01, S100A pages 53-58
[21] See Cap:1:01 www.legalaffairs.gov.gy
[22] Ibid.
[23] Financial allocations in 2013 advanced the completion of 12 communities and the demarcation of eight titled villages. In 2014, approximately GY$150 million is allocated to this project.
[24] The term Village Council and Community Council are used to distinguish Councils administering titled lands and those in the process of obtaining titled lands.
[25] All Toshaos are members of the National Toshaos Council. This body meets every 2 years for one week and elects its 20 person executive every 3 years.
[26] See the report of the 2014 NTC Conference in **Appendix III.**
[27] In 2014, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Appointments to Commissions included representation of the three major ethnic groups (Indo-Guyanese, Afro-Guyanese and Amerindian who together make up more than 80 % of the population) through their organizations to name a member each to the ERC. The new appointees approved by the National Assembly will be sworn in by the President.
[28] See Cap:11:06 at www.legalaffairs.gov.gy/information/laws-of-guyana
[29] Ibid Cap:10:03
[30] The PSSC held hearings with the Ministries of Education, Health, Culture, Youth and Sport and Home Affairs as well as the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Prison Service, the New Opportunity Corp (the only Juvenile Offenders Centre) and the constitutional Rights of the Child Commission. The following NGOs also came before the PSSC- ChildLink, Forward Guyana, Guyana Human Rights Association, Guyana Teachers Union, The Justice Institute, the Women's Progressive

Organization, Red Thread, religious organizations and individuals.

[31] Guyana's 2010 UPR Report referred to **Article 149 (1)** and **(2)** which prohibits discrimination *"on the grounds of race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, creed, age, disability, marital status, sex, gender, language, birth, social class, pregnancy, religion, conscience, belief or culture."* Thus discrimination is prohibited on grounds of sex and gender and the laws and policies of the country do not discriminate on the grounds of one's sexual preference in accessing good and services provided by the state within its means.

[32] See these laws at www.legalaffairs.gov.gy/information/laws-of-guyana

[33] Modeled on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

[34] This amendment brought Guyana into compliance with OPAC on the age of recruitment.

[35] This statutorises the best interests of the child with respect to custody, contact, guardianship and maintenance claims.

[36] This Act provides for the regulation of adoption agencies and the operation of the Adoption Board.

[37] This Act regulates all childcare services, sets minimum standards and registers, licenses and monitors these services by the CCPA. It prohibits corporal punishment.

[38] This amendment provides for the right of the surviving partner to be a beneficiary of the estate of their deceased partner/spouse after five years of co-habitation. This Act provides that a single woman living with a single man in a common law union for not less than five years or vice versa to "have the same power and rights regarding intestate succession under the law as a widow or widower or a surviving spouse." This reduced the period for legally recognised cohabitation from 10 years.

[39] These include:-No.1/2012 - Rules made under the Adoption of Children Act 2009; No. 2/2012 - Family (Proceedings and Procedure) Rules 2012; No. 3/2012 - Regulations made under Adoption of Children Act 2009; No. 4/2012 - Regulations made under Status of Children Act 2009 and No. 5/2012 - Regulations made under Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Act 2011.

[40] Enacted on November 20, 2010.

[41] See www.legalaffairs.gov.gy/information/laws-of-guyana

[42] Three rights commissions have developed strategic plans in accordance with their constitutional remit with assistance from these agencies.

[43] See CRC/C/GUY/2-4.

[44] This Committee like others reports annually to the House. Noteworthy is that the Standing Orders provide for the chairmanship to be annually rotated between the government and opposition Members of Parliament. No Minister may sit on these committees as they are required to answer queries and provide information on their sector.

[45] See CRC/C/GUY/Q/2-4/add.1 for more information.

[46] The Rehabilitation Services Division of the MOH, MoED and the NCD are currently working on a joint programme on the "identification and integration of children with disabilities". This involves ante-natal and post-natal screening to allow for early identification of disabilities and screening programmes for visual and hearing impairments in schools.

[47] See www.mcys.gov.gy. MCYS quarterly newsletters and activities.

[48] World Economic Forum – The Global Gender Gap Report 2013, Guyana profile.

[49] The Director of Budget, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of Public Prosecutions, Registrar of the Land Registry, Registrar of the Deeds and Commercial Registry, Registrar General of the General Registration Office, and three of the nine Heads of Missions are female.

[50] One-third of the Permanent Secretaries (Chief Accounting Officers) in Ministries are female.

[51] See Guyana's National Review on the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action, July 2014.

[52] The study desegregates the data of percentage of permanent female workers in small, medium and large firms at 40.3 %, 36.6%, and 42.5 % respectively.

[53] See Guyana profile pages 13-14, www.entreprisesurveys.org

[54] World Economic Forum – The Global Gender Gap Report 2012, Guyana profile.

[55] ILO Decent Work Country Programme of Guyana (2012-2015).

[56] The four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda include: (i) respect for rights at work as human rights; (ii) employment and enterprise creation; (iii) social protection; and (iv) social dialogue.

[57] Indo-Guyanese 43.45%, Amerindian 10%, mixed 16.7 % and other .46%.

[58] A Policy Framework Document & Objectives was formulated by this body to (a) Strengthen national, regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent; (b) Strengthen

national, regional and international cooperation to ensure people of African descent are participating and integrating in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres of Guyanese society; (c) Empower people of African descent; (d) Promote inter-ethnic equity.

[59] NGOs that promote African culture and rights receive budgetary allocations to facilitate their annual emancipation and historic celebrations throughout Guyana.

[60] Art.212 G Cap:1:01 www.legalaffairs.gov.gy/information/laws-of-guyana

[61] Ibid Art.212 A-F

[62] Ibid Art 212 N

[63] All five constitutional rights Commissions have been given powers of initiating investigations into violations of rights, abuses and complaints, resolving disputes or rectifying acts or omissions by mediation, conciliation, or negotiation, and educating the public on the nature and content of matters under their purview.

[64] The Commissions are required to submit their annual reports to Parliament.

[65] The failure of successive Leaders of the Opposition in the 9th Parliament (as reported in Guyana's state party reports to the UPR, CEDAW and CROC in 2010) and in 10th Parliament, to respond to request for 6 names from which the President selects and appoints one as the Chairperson in accordance with Art 212 N (3) of the Constitution remains unchanged. The 4 other members of the HR Commission are the chairpersons (who are elected) of the Ethnic Relations Commission, the Women and Gender Equality Commission, the Rights of the Child Commission and the Indigenous Peoples' Commission.

[66] See CRC/C/GUY/Q/2-4/Add.1 Para # 83, 237 and 245. Section 37 criminalises marital rape. It also makes provision for special measures to allow for a more conducive environment for a witness to testify such as the use of: (1) screens in court to protect witnesses but these must not block the judge, jury, magistrate, lawyer and interpreter or intermediary; (2) the use of audio-visual links; (3)the removal of gowns; (4) the examination of a witness through an intermediary appointed to assist the witness, and (5) the use of anatomically correct dolls in the taking of evidence from children.

[67] These are under review.

[68] All Protection Orders are prepared by a Lawyer, a Police Officer or a gazetted Social Worker and must be accompanied by an affidavit. The Clerks of Court are trained to assist victims in making applications for these orders.

[69] The Guyana Legal Aid Clinic (GLAC) continues to receive annual budgetary support from the government and provides subsidized or free professional assistance to persons faced with either criminal cases, civil disputes, or, who need legal advice, and are in danger of having their rights infringed upon or other legal needs because of poverty and lack of financial resources to defray these costs. The Clinic has expanded its services to six of the ten (10) Administrative Regions. Since its establishment, the Clinic has assisted over 17,000 people, the majority of them being women, to access the Guyana justice system.

[70] With UNICEF's assistance.

[71] Source: Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions 2014.

[72] See **Para #90** herein.

[73] Originally known as TELL Scheme. See CRC/C/GUY/Q/2-4/ Add.1 para # 81-89.

[74] In 2012, ChildLink Guyana, an NGO, under the TELL Campaign trained 440 Grade 3 and 6 teachers, head teachers and 177 PTA executives from 154 schools in five Administrative Regions. These persons are expected to report to child protection officers and/or police incidents disclosed by the children. Additionally, 21 guidance and counseling, welfare and child protection officers were also trained in identifying children who are exposed to abusive environments.

[75] The CCPA has extended services by assigning resident officers to all ten administrative regions and visiting child protection and probation officers in several other regions to ensure that childcare and protection services are delivered nationwide.

[76] MLHSSS, Child Care and Protection Agency Annual Reports, 2009–2013.

[77] Combating Trafficking in Persons Act, Part V, S 30 (1).

[78] This Plan of Action builds on earlier annual plans.

[79] Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) collaborated with the Task Force to visit a major checkpoint in Region Seven (7) to observe the movement of persons entering and exiting Mining Districts #3 and #4. The Task Force carried out training of mines officers there. Informational posters are posted up at strategic points in the Mining Districts.

[80] 41 Police Officers and Ranks received training on TIPS which included victim identification and investigations.

[81] For instance, the MoAA in collaborated with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) conducted TIPs education and awareness training in forty four (44) Amerindian villages in 4 Administrative Regions, most vulnerable to trafficking activity in 2011.

[82] In 2010, the MHSSS and MoED reached 1,306 in-school youth in twelve (12) schools in 5 Regions. In 2011, in collaboration with UNICEF, the MHSSS expanded this programme in 6 Regions reaching 1,629 students and teachers in twelve (12) schools.

[83] The outreach to forty-four (44) schools in 4 Administrative Regions reached 4,875 students. Awareness sessions were held in 7 interior mining communities in Administrative Region 7 with a total participation of five hundred and eighty six (586) individuals.

[84] Guyana Poverty Reduction Strategy 2011-2015 adopted in the National Assembly in 2011. See www.finance.gov.gy

[85] These include:-
Income tax relief – workers earning less than GY $50,000 GY a month or a total of GY $600,000 ($3000USD) annually do not pay any income tax. Approximately 40,000 workers and their families benefit from this relief;
No VAT charged – Essential food and baby food items and some construction items are zero-rated;
National Insurance Scheme- all employees, employers and self-employed are required by law to contribute to the NIS and are eligible to access medical assistance, pensions, maternity and funeral benefits;
Universal Old Age Pension- 42,900 citizens 65 years and over, are entitled to receive a monthly pension which is approved by the National Assembly annually. The only criteria is that the person must have reached the age of 65;
Women of Worth Programme, the only micro-credit scheme specifically targeting women and female headed households through a government/local commercial bank partnership;
Single Parent Assistance Programme offers training, a grant for day care facilities, and small project funds to start up micro-economic activity;
Public Assistance Programme- monthly allowances targeting the very poor and disabled.
Special and Difficult Circumstances Programme- a one-off assistance for families going through difficult time (funerals, specialised pharmaceuticals and treatment,etc.);
Assistance with Water bills- pensioners whose water bill is in their name receive an annual waiver or subsidy from around GY $15,000 to in excess of GY $20,000.
Assistance with Electricity bill-households which utilize a low level of electricity pay a standard fee.

[86] UNICEF MICS 2014 will provide updated information.

[87] Guyana 2011 MDG Progress Report, see www.finance.gov.gy publications

[88] See CRC/C/GUY/Q/2-4/Add.1 para # 272 Table 15 illustrates predominance of male drop outs.

[89] World Economic Forum – The Global Gender Gap Report 2013, Guyana Profile

[90] Under sub-categories "enrolment in primary education, secondary education and tertiary enrolments rates", Guyana is ranked number 1 in all three of these categories.

[91] See **Appendix I, Table 2.**

[92] Equivalent to USD 161.5M

[93] See CRC/C/GUY/Q/2-4/ Add.1. para 9, Table 1

[94] Five more secondary schools in the interior will have to be built due to overflow of capacity of present dormitories.

[95] This programme commenced in October 2014 and over 135, 969 children have so far benefitted.

[96] The HEIP consists of five components: Improving the Quality of Teacher Education in the Hinterland; Aligning Teaching-Learning Resources to Improve Students' Outcomes; Improving Physical Facilities; Fostering Community Alliances; and Strengthening Management and Supervision in the Hinterland.

[97] www.paho.org/guy/index

[98] On December 10, 2014 the Ministries of Health and Finance launched the Guyana MDG Acceleration Framework and Campaign on Improving Maternal Health.

[99] See Guyana's report to UNAIDS 2014.

[100] The Community Health Worker (CHW) programme continues to train community selected persons in specific skills and provide prevention and basic care in these interior communities.

[101] In 2013, 205,963 malaria smears were completed compared to 169,309 in 2009. Improved and more efficient coverage has reduced morbidity and mortality.

[102] The 2010 Guyana/Cuba partnership continues to offer graduate scholarships to Guyanese students in medicine, engineering and other fields in Cuba. This has lead to a significant increase in the number of doctors serving at health centers and hospitals in rural and hinterland communities.

[103] Low income and poor households can apply and purchase houselots at subsidized prices and approach a commercial bank for a loan of up to GY$5Million (USD$25,000) at a concessionary low interest rate negotiated between the Government and bankers for this programme.

[104] Mortgage Interest Relief was enacted in 2013 by statute which allows first time home owners to deduct the interest they pay on mortgage loans (up to GY$30M) from their taxable personal income tax. This in the long term will reduce the interest to be paid and the repayment period for homeowners.

[105] Applicants can purchase a standard house and land (GY$ 5M)(US$25,000) and access a mortgage loan with certification from the CH&PA.

[106] The Core (starter) houses programme assists the poorest percentile of the population who cannot afford to acquire a low income houselot and construct a house. Under its first Pilot, 400 households including households with persons with disabilities and female-headed households have benefited in 6 Administrative Regions. Government subsidizes 95.2% of the cost of home construction and the beneficiary is required to pay GY$100,000 (US$500) towards their home construction.

[107] See www.guyanastatitsics.gov.gy

[108] Ibid. Region 3 grew by 33.8 %, Region 7 and 9 grew by 38.6 % and 43.7 % respectively.

[109] These achievements include:

- Lifted thousands of families out of poverty and crowded unsanitary living conditions;
- Provided security of tenure for thousands of poor and working people;
- Opened the doors for thousands of people previously excluded from accessing loans;
- Percentage of female headed households owning property increased significantly;
- Access to clean potable water and electricity increased to 90%;
- Created new peri-urban centres in the coastal and interior regions;
- Development of new communities that are mixed ethnically;
- Construction of new schools, health centres, hospitals, police stations, malls, and access to regular garbage collection in new housing schemes;
- Provision of land in the schemes for houses of worship and recreation;
- Expanded the tax basis for the local government bodies;
- Encouraged the creation of new community based organizations to enhance belonging and care of these new communities.

[110] Over the last 4 years the sum of G$13.6 B (USD 68M) has been invested in improving the quality and level of service being provided for all Guyanese. This has resulted in an expansion and reliability of supply services across the country including nearly 100,000 persons living in new housing schemes.

[111] The recently launched GoG/IDB/EU US$31,676,500 Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure Improvement Programme will improve the overall efficiency, quality and sustainability of the potable water in the three most populous Administrative Regions.

[112] Guyana does not produce wheat and sufficient quantities of dairy products.

[113] Ministry of Health Statistical Unit, 2014

[114] See **Table 2, Appendix I**

[115] In this period, 26 Community Development Plans were implemented costing over USD$1M. This includes 19 villages which are developing eco-tourism projects.

[116] Projects are concentrated in seven sectors: agriculture, village infrastructure, tourism, manufacturing (including crafts), village business enterprise, mining (artisanal), and transportation.

[117] In 2013, 198 persons were trained in computer skills and solar panel installation, and 430 students benefitted from the Hinterland Scholarship Programme.

[118] These CSOs are paid by the MOAA.

[119] See **Para #118 (b)**

[120] See Guyana's 2010 UPR report.

[121] USD25M

[122] The functions of the Criminal and Justice Committees are to advise on all programmes and policy matters pertaining to the criminal justice area; serve as a focal point for leadership, guidance,

coordination, development and implementation of reform programmes and activities in criminal justice area; develop, review and make recommendations for the improvement of the criminal justice system; the promotion of the inter-governmental and inter-agency cooperation and coordination; and promote public awareness of the issues, alternatives and goals in the criminal justice area among others. A Criminal Justice Committee has been established in each of the three counties in Guyana. Each Committee meets monthly and addresses complaints about the criminal justice sector. Each one reports quarterly to the Chancellor of the Judiciary.

123 Under Section 3 of the High Court Act, Cap.3:02.

124 In this period, 10 Houses of Justice in 2 Administrative Regions have been established that offer a range of services for the public. The creation of the COPs and Faith Network (CFCN) is helping to address issues at the community levels with the Police.

125 A Forensic Laboratory has been constructed to improve successful investigations and prosecutions.

126 See Constitution www.legalaffairs.gov.gy

127 The first parliamentary committee was appointed, functioned and presented its report in September 2011. In 10th Parliament, this Committee has not functioned as the opposition parties have refused to comply with the appointment of the chairman from the government side as approved in 2010 by resolution.

128 The Human Rights Manual in use captures International Best Practices and was developed by the UNDP and the Guyana Human Rights Association.

129 In 2013, 81 ranks from the level of Constable to Assistant Commissioner benefitted from overseas training.

130 See www.legalaffairs.gov.gy/infromation/laws-of-guyana Cap:17:02 S2.

131 Extraction from the Police Complaints Authority Annual Reports 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 (Sept)

132 Charges brought by the Director of Public Prosecutions are not reflected in the PCA reports.

133 The Constitution has not conferred investigative powers on the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The DPP advises the police based on available evidence and applicable charges and prosecutes criminal cases.

134 11 have been charged -2 charged with murder, 1 with rape, 2 charged with unlawful discharge of a weapon with intent, 3 for perverting the course of justice, and 1 for stealing. In addition, two have been convicted for TIPs and unlawful discharge of weapon with intent.

135 See also CRC/C/GUY/Q/2-4/Add.1 para# 109–113.

136 See Guyana Constitution Cap:1:01 www.legalaffairs.gov.gy/information/laws-of-guyana.**Protection of the Right to Personal Liberty,** Art. 139 (2) (a) *(e);(3) and (3) (b); and 144(1)*

137 The Criminal Law (Procedure) Act, Cap. 10:01 provides for bail to be granted to the accused in a number of instances.

138 The use of force/punishment is clearly stated in Prison Rules 171 and 172, Cap: 11:01. Ranks found negligent in this regard are adjudicated departmentally and/or criminally.

139 One prison has been identified as a model for first offenders.

140 See Guyana's submission to the UN-CTS 2014 for years 2009–2013.

141 In 2012, the total number of prisoners was 1986 with 690 on pretrial/remand detention and 1342 sentenced.

142 Among the duties of the Visiting Committees is to interview prisoners on their conditions and treatment at those locations. These Committees have visiting privileges with or without giving prior notice to Prison Administration.

143 These include (a) Force Standing No. 73, Guidelines on Care and Custody of Prisoners; (b) Force Standing Order No. 6, duties of Officers when in charge of stations, also requires that the Care and Custody of Prisoners be addressed and given constant attention; (c) Weekly Instruction Classes at stations and visits by Officers and Inspectors to Stations also aid in enhancing Care and Custody of Prisoners.

144 The GPS's Basic Recruit Training Courses includes the appropriate use of force. Follow up training courses/seminars are conducted including those conducted regionally and internationally in accordance with international standards.

145 Enacted on September 27, 2011.

146 Of these only one is government owned (NCN) with one tv station and one radio station.